

FLIGHT JACKET

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

February 13, 2004

Raising 'Old Glory'

3rd MAW dedicates colors ceremony to families, honors legacy of sacrifice

Story by Cpl. Kristen L. Tull

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Our flag is powerful in symbolism and meaning.

The flag is raised every morning so that we may understand, no matter how difficult the battle or how many times the colors have fallen, through our combined efforts, they will always rise again.

Commanding General Maj. Gen. James F. Amos, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, dedicated the Feb. 6 colors ceremony here to the families who stand behind every successful servicemember.

The 3rd MAW band started the ceremony by playing "The Klaxon," by Henry Fillmore. The piece painted a musical picture of the congested San Diego streets and freeways that military families travel during their hectic schedules.

The last selection prior to colors was "Wind Beneath My Wings." This song was chosen to thank the family members for keeping the home-fires burning, for welcoming them home when they return from a long tour overseas, and for all the sacrifices the military family must endure during a servicemembers career.

The crowd was filled with servicemen and women, their families and retirees.

"I am very proud to be here, the Marine Corps was my life for 30 years, and I loved every minute of it," said retired Col. Jim Williams.

After serving in World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam, the retired colonel said he still gets goose bumps when he



The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band stands at the ready in the 3rd MAW Headquarters area after playing the national anthem during the Feb. 6 Colors Ceremony honoring military families and their sacrifices. Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

hears anything patriotic.

"I have to watch the tears, it's all just so meaningful to me," said

ors were raised.

"It's all so significant, just watching the camaraderie brings tears to my eyes," said Jan Williams.

For many Marines and Sailors here, this will be their last colors ceremony before deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"It's going to be a while before I'm able to come back and do this again, it makes me proud

just to be here," said Cpl. Roberto Cervantes, administration clerk, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3.

Sgt. William B. Holder, intelligence specialist here, deploying to Iraq for the second time, says ceremonies such as this give the community a chance to come out and show their support.

"It's motivating to me, it makes me remember the guys who did it before us, the ones who went through a lot more than we did," said Holder. "It doesn't

make it so bad that we're deploying again."

The colors ceremony is a military tradition that is passed on to all servicemembers year after year, each one with a different meaning.

Cpl. Jason Nuckles, information systems specialist here will not be deployed, but knows the importance of raising the flag.

"It's so symbolic, the flag going up, no matter where you are. I mean ... that's what we're fighting for right there."

'I am very proud to be here, the Marine Corps was my life for 30 years, and I loved every minute of it.'

retired Col. Jim Williams

Williams.

His wife was beside him, assisting him to stand while the col-

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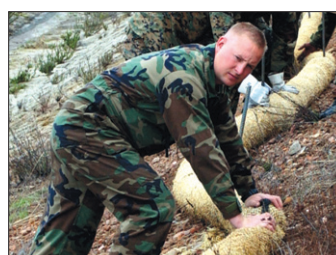
Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station


69°/45°
Today


70°/46°
Saturday


71°/47°
Sunday

Marines save the soil



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Varsity soccer kicks off



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Before deploying, have your vehicle secured and stored in authorized long-term parking. Call 577-1303.

OPSEC requirements reviewed

Gen. M.W. Hagee

Commandant of the Marine Corps

At no time in history has the need to protect critical information been more essential than today. The events of Sept. 11, 2001 revealed how vulnerable our open society is to an asymmetric attack. Our adversaries will continue to seek all possible advantages, and it is imperative that we protect information that can be exploited and used in an attack against us. Today, as technology makes information available instantaneously through almost any personal computer, protecting critical information and our intentions is vital to preserving the lives of men and women involved in military operations.

Operational Security is defined as a process of identifying critical information and subsequently analyzing friendly actions relating to defense acquisition, defense activities, military operations and other activities in order to:

1. Identify those actions that may be observed by adversary intelligence systems.
2. Determine what indicators hostile intelligence systems may obtain that could be interpreted or pieced together to derive critical information in time to be useful to adversaries.
3. Select and execute measures that eliminate or reduce to an acceptable level the vulnerabilities of friendly actions that may be exploited by adversaries.

Every member of the Department of Defense, from new recruits to combatant commanders, to enhance OPSEC through four objectives: making OPSEC a priority; integrating OPSEC into training and awareness programs; ensuring force protection and operations planners recognize the risks associated with compromising critical information and the countermeasures needed to mitigate those risks; and finally, continually assessing our ability to apply appropriate OPSEC practices to our daily missions.

Accordingly, I want commanders at all levels to review the requirements outlined in Marine Corps Order 3432.1, The Marine Corps Operations Security Program, and develop an aggressive program ISO OPSEC. Operational Security must become a way of life for all Marines.

Headquarters Marine Corps, information operations and space integration branch, serves as the Marine Corps' lead office for OPSEC policy and coordination within DoD and throughout the interagency structure.

Internal Marine Corps resources to assist in information systems security aspects of an OPSEC program are available from the Marine Corps Network Operations and Security Command, www.noc.usmc.mil/marcert/default8.htm.

External resources to assist in developing an OPSEC program are available from the interagency OPSEC support staff, www.ioass.gov; the joint information center, www.jioc.smil.mil; and the fleet information warfare center, www.fiw.c.navy.mil.

Semper Fidelis

Sacrifices ensure the right to vote

Gen. M.W. Hagee

Commandant of the Marine Corps

Today Sailors and Marines are deployed throughout the world, often in harm's way, protecting our nation and supporting the cause of freedom and democracy. In many places, the struggle centers on one very basic but powerful principle of democracy – the right to vote.

In our country, we have that right as a result of past and present sacrifices of U.S. servicemen and women like you.

Therefore, it is particularly appropriate that you, who

protect this right for all of us, also exercise this right for yourself. It's your sacrifice, it's your country and it's your future. You've earned this right, and your vote counts.

I encourage you to register to vote early this year. Do it now to eliminate potential problems later. Your command's voting assistance officer has the absentee voter registration materials.

Thanks for your untiring service to America and our democratic ideals. God bless you and your families and God bless America.

Semper Fidelis

Miramar Mail



"Why doesn't the Exchange have a wider selection of non-military reading materials?"

Lance Cpl. Kenneth Sawyer, legal clerk, H&HS

The Marine Corps Exchange currently carries the top 10 hardback best-sellers, the top 15 paperback best-sellers and approximately 800 additional titles, which is a good rounded selection for a non-book store operation.

An expansion in 2005 will increase the book and magazine sections, but not to the degree of a large retail book store.



Maj. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti


Editor's note:

E-mail your questions to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar at: ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil Please include "Question to the General" in the subject line.



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FLIGHT JACKET

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Maj. Gen.

Jon A. Gallinetti

Commander

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James F. Amos

Commanding General

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

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Combat Correspondents

Marines toast to brotherhood

Story by Staff Sgt. Maria C. Brookman

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Toasts were shared and the smoking lamp was lit as staff noncommissioned officers of Marine Aircraft Group 11 gathered together to participate in a mess night at the Serra Mesa staff club here Feb. 6.

The mess was presided over by Sgt. Maj. Peter J. Trower of MAG-11 and the guest of honor was retired Sgt. Maj. Tracy L. Wahl. Mr. Vice, usually the most junior member of the mess, was Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Nila, of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11.

"We are holding this mess night in the spirit of brotherhood, the fostering of camaraderie and keeping Marine Corps traditions alive. As we continue to press on with the war on terror and execute (Operation Iraqi Freedom) II, it may be a few years before MAG-11 can muster so many staff NCOs," said Nila, a Sun Valley, Calif. native.

"This is the ultimate tradition," echoed Staff Sgt. Michael T. Flowers, Squadron Support Division

staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, MALS-11. "It lets us learn about our fallen comrades and it upholds the true beliefs the Marine Corps holds."

Over 150 staff NCOs of the Group arrived wearing their Service "A" uniforms to enjoy dinner and engage in polite conversation. As a rule, no member of the mess could talk about work, religion, politics or money.

"This is great," said Gunnery Sgt. Kevin W. Layne, maintenance controller, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225. "I'm sorry to see not all staff NCOs are here but I think it should happen more often because we just haven't done this type of thing before."

Wahl, project manager, J. K. Hill & Associates, Miramar Projects Office, spoke of the staff NCOs as being the motivation behind all of the Marine Corps accomplishments and of the mess night being a time for reflection of the customs and traditions of the Corps.

"The basic leadership traits and principles have not changed," said Wahl, a native of Anoka, Minn. "You bring Marines up and take the time with them. (You) teach them



Staff Sgt. Jaime D. Reyes (left) and Gunnery Sgt. Douglas J. Gamboa of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 share in a toast honoring Marines of the past, present and future during a Mess Night held Feb. 6 at the Serra Mesa Club, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Photo by Staff Sgt. Maria C. Brookman

organization. (Staff NCOs) cut to the chase, get down to business and get the job done.

"It's good to know where you've been because it helps to define where you are going."

While the event itself presented an atmosphere of fellowship and goodwill, the highlight of the evening was when president of the mess night opened the floor for fines. Endorsed and encouraged by all members of the mess, the fines were only limited by imagination and the severity of the alleged

crime, or in some cases, the inability of the members to appropriately convey requests to address mess officials. Standing up at the position of attention, facing Mr. Vice who was seated to the rear of the dining hall, the individual either properly made the request or was sternly told to "sit down!" by Mr. Vice.

The final proceedings of the evening were toasts held to commemorate those who have led Marines in the past and those who continue to do so in peacetime and in garrison. Pre-selected members of

the mess stood up one at a time to raise a glass to their comrades-in-arms who continue to march on and share in moments of silence for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The tradition of having mess nights is as old as the Corps itself and dates back to the days of old when Roman military commanders held feasts to honor their heroes. The practice of the mess by Sailors and Marines began in the early 1800s during

See **TOAST**, page 11

MCAA dinner focuses on homeland security, hosts Air Force guest speaker

Story by Cpl. James S. McGregor

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Marion Carl Squadron of the Marine Corps Aviation Association held their latest dinner event Feb. 6 at the Officers' Club here with a Valentine's Day theme and an Air Force general as its guest speaker.

Air Force Gen. Ed Eberhart, commander, U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, spoke of countermeasures to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 as well as the importance of homeland security – "the home game" – at the event.

Eberhart and approximately 170 guests also watched as the Marion Carl Squadron launched a fund drive for a black granite base, which will be mounted by the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing memorial plaque that was dedicated to 3rd MAW's fallen Marines in November. The base and plaque will be placed in the 3rd MAW Headquarters building.

In recognition of the Valentine's Day theme, flowers were given to female guests.

In particular, flowers were given to Marine wives for their contributions, said Col. Earl Wederbrook, commanding officer, Marine Aircraft Group 11. Additionally, a \$5,000 check was presented to the

United Through Reading Program, which gives deployed Marines and their family members the opportunity to communicate via book readings on video.

Although the event accomplished many things, Wederbrook said the real reasons for having MCAA and the Marion Carl Squadron dinners lie in tradition.

"The Marine Corps Aviation Association fosters the health and welfare of Marine Corps aviation," Wederbrook explained. "It is like an alumni – it brings former and present aviation Marines together for informal gatherings and camaraderie," the Bainbridge, Ga., native added.

Eberhart, who was "honored" to be a part of the event, echoed Wederbrook's positive attitude toward the tradition of the MCAA and the Marine Corps as a whole.

"There is an argument to be made that the Marine Corps understands tradition more than any service – they understand it well and they promote the importance of the Marine Corps heritage and Marine Corps aviation in this example," Eberhart said. "I think Marines of the past and present have made significant contributions, and to be a part of this function is quite an honor – and fun. It's a chance for me to acknowledge the Marines for their contributions."

NAPRA keeps HMM-163 (REIN) flying high during deployment overseas

Story by Sgt. Mark P. Ledesma

13th MEU Combat Correspondent

ABOARD USS PELELIU — Aircraft maintenance is a major element of a Marine Expeditionary Unit. When Marines and Sailors operating in the Western Pacific or Arabian Gulf cannot repair a damaged aircraft because of structural damage, a group of civilian aircraft mechanic experts from the Naval Air Pacific Repair Activity are flown in from Okinawa, Japan, to assist in the job.

During the 13th MEU's Western Pacific deployment, NAPRA's depot level support of aircraft maintenance was crucial to the long and constant flight operations the MEU conducted under the guidance of the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet.

Since "The Fighting 13th's" deployment last summer, NAPRA technicians have been dispatched to assist the MEU on several occasions to repair structural damages on an

AV-8B Harrier, a UH-1N Huey, a CH-53E Super Stallion and two CH-46E Sea Knights.

According to 1st Lt. Lou H. Royer, maintenance material control officer, Marine Medium Helicopter 163 (Reinforced), there are three levels of maintenance when dealing with Marine Corps aircraft, and each level is a specialized level of technical experience with depot level being the highest.

The first level is the organizational level, which can be completed by Marine technicians. It deals with inspections and removal and replacement of major aircraft components such as

engines, propellers and rotor heads.

The next echelon of maintenance is intermediate level. Marine technicians can also complete intermediate-level tasks. It deals with limited repair of major components.

According to Dennis Helms, NAPRA planner and estimator, the biggest satisfac-

'We get such a high level of satisfaction because we're also out here working at the tip of the spear.'

Dennis Helms



Naval Air Pacific Repair Activity mechanics repair a damaged UH-1N Huey Jan. 16 aboard USS Peleliu. During the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Western Pacific deployment, NAPRA's depot level support of aircraft maintenance was crucial to the long and constant flight operations the MEU conducted under the guidance of the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet. Photo by Sgt. Mark P. Ledesma

tion he gets from repairing a damaged aircraft is watching it fly back into action.

"We get such a high level of satisfaction because we're also out here working at the tip of the spear," said Helms.

According to its Web site, NAPRAS has been supporting the Navy and Marine Corps team in operations and conflicts since the mid '50s, including the wars in the Persian Gulf and Vietnam. Current personnel, located in Atsugi, Okinawa, Korea, Australia,

lia, and Singapore continue to provide essential aviation depot level repair services to the Fleet from the Northern Pacific to Antarctica, from Hawaii to the Persian Gulf, and in Europe.

"These guys are true professionals," said Royer. "The jobs they perform are indispensable. We could not continue to do our mission without their support."

For more information on NAPRA, visit www.usmc.mil or www.napra.navy.mil.

3rd MAW embarkation Marines pack essential gear

Story by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

For a normal deployment to the Middle East or any operation the Marine Corps supports, time is valuable to Marines when they are not given much of it to accomplish their mission.

Embarkation Marines from Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 recently packed and shipped all essential gear for the upcoming deployment to Iraq.

Equipment ranging from computers to printer paper were packed into shipping containers and delivered to port docks to be sent to Iraq.

According to 1st Lt. Jon S. Siracusa, supply and logistics officer, MWHS-3, the headquarters gear was packed and shipped in less than one week.

"The compacted timeline for the embarkation process is what was impressive," said the 25-year-old Paia, Hawaii, native. "The most difficult thing was coordinating the enabler groups."

Enabler groups are small elements of Marines that go

forward with supplies and gear to prepare the necessary airfields and mess halls before the main contingent of troops arrive.

"These enabler groups are usually stood up within one week of their deployment and are embarked within that same week," Siracusa said.

Because of the compacted timeline, Marines had to work very quickly.

"We got everything to the port within time limits," said Siracusa. "We achieved all this with limited heavy equipment, limited tractor-trailers and a 'bare bone' staff."

"For this evolution I was able to witness first hand what the embarkers went through for Operation Iraqi Freedom," said Lance Cpl. Teng Lee, a 26-year-old Marysville, Calif., native.

Siracusa said not all things went according to plan.

"Some short fuse items requiring a lot of coordination

happened after working hours," he said. "Some things we found out about at the last minute."

One of the key players in the process was Sgt. Alaina J. DioDonet, embarkation chief, MWHS-3, who deployed

with the headquarters squadron for the first mission in Iraq. "We packed, loaded and shipped 15, 20-foot sea-containers, three high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles and one trailer in less than one week," said the Houston native. "Personnel started packing their gear on

a Wednesday and it arrived at the shipping port the following Tuesday."

Now that the embarkation mission is complete, the Marines at supply and logistics can resume their normal day-to-day duties and continue to make requests to have transportation for the Marines and supply MWHS-3 offices.

'We packed, loaded and shipped 15, 20-foot sea-containers, three high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles and one trailer in less than one week.'

Sgt. Alaina J. DioDonet

Miramar Marines, civilians combat soil erosion

Roads, structures protected from landslides in fire damaged areas

Story by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The threat of another fire the size of the Cedar Fire that ripped through the San Diego area last October may be unlikely. However, other dangers and hazards can occur in the blackened hillsides of East Miramar such as floods and mudslides caused by soil erosion.

Civilian personnel from the Miramar Fire Department, Natural Resources Division and Public Works Department here worked diligently with Marines at one structured site on East Miramar to prevent mudslides caused by possible heavy rains Feb. 3.

"We didn't know how strong the storms were going to be," said JoEllen Kassebaum, botanist, Natural Resources Division. "The storms didn't turn out as bad as we thought. It could have been worse."

More than a dozen Marines worked with facilities and maintenance personnel well into the evening laying out jute matting and long strands of hay called "waddles" across the hillsides that overlook the road.

"We worked on (laying down jute matting and waddles) until it was all done," said Cpl. Jeremy A. Sampson, quality assurance safety observer, station ordnance. "You have to do your part to take care of the environment so that it doesn't wear out."

Across the way in areas where there is very little vegetation left and no erosion control, steep slopes of eroding soil can be seen starting to form along the barren canyon. Laying down waddles and jute matting will hopefully prevent further damage from happening, said Paul Tompkins, Station 62 fire captain, Miramar Fire Department.

"When the water and soil rolls down the hill, it will hit the waddles ... and channel the water off so we don't have water coming straight down the hills," explained Tompkins.

Mudslides could not only block roads and damage buildings, but could also block sev-

eral waterways used regularly by local communities and cause problems for many endangered species protected here, according to Tompkins.

"We have a lot of sensitive habitats and resources that are protected under federal law," he said. "In an effort to slow mother nature from washing away the hillsides, we have to step in and take care of things. Often times where natural vegetation burns, mother nature kind of takes care of itself."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offered in November to coordinate an evaluation by the Burned Area Emergency Response team, an interagency team of national emergency rehabilitation specialists that included a hydrologist and geologist, who surveyed and provided information on the extent of erosion from denuded hills and winter rains.

Six areas on East Miramar were finalized by station environmental and facilities personnel based on the information

provided by the BAER team as priorities for post-fire rehabilitation with regard to erosion control, according to Kassebaum.

The areas of concern and recommendation for immediate rehabilitation were drainages leading off-station and bare mineral soil roads, according to the survey report.

Kassebaum said the Marine Corps has been very cooperative in the surveying process and was very pleased with the work the Marines have been putting into preserving the many endangered habitants living here.

"It has been joint effort between all departments," she said.

Erosion control measures have been limited to just laying down jute matting and waddles to limit the extent of damage to station facilities with the additional benefit of preserving the natural habitats, said Kassebaum. She said growth along the hillsides will come naturally and no hydro-seeding of exotic plants will take place anywhere along the burned areas.

"We are letting it come back naturally. We are doing the minimal amount possible

so that we don't disturb the roots of all the native plants," she said.

Although much of the land here is burned, fire crews here are looking towards the future with hopes of preventing a major fire from ever happening again, said Tompkins. He said the area could have burnable acres within five years and certainly larger fire potential within the next 10 years.

"We are going to manage the way it comes back," he said. "We look to be working closer with San Diego city especially where our boundaries are adjacent to communities."

Of the more than 23,000 acres of land here, approximately 19,000 acres were burned as a result of the Cedar Fire last October, the largest of all the fires in the San Diego region covering more than 280,000 acres, said Tompkins.



With steep slopes of soil forming in burned areas with little vegetation, waddles help prevent soil erosion and damage to nearby structures and roads.

Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

'You have to do your part to take care of the environment.'
Cpl. Jeremy A. Sampson



Miramar Marines and facilities personnel lay down waddles along the hillsides on East Miramar to prevent mudslides from running onto roads and buildings Feb. 3. The threat of heavy rains raised concerns of possible mudslides on the blackened hillsides caused by the Cedar Fire last October. *Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas*

One of the best BMX riders is not only a Marine he is a ...

‘Rad Racer’

Story by Sgt. Joshua Stueve

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

One of the world’s best BMX riders is not only a Marine, but he is stationed right here at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Cool, huh?

Capt. Stanley Horton, the ninth ranked rider nationally in his age group, has ridden in the BMX World Championships the last three years and was a semi-finalist at last year’s World Championship held in Perth, Australia.

But all this success on the track has not come easy. Horton has devoted virtually all of his free time to becoming a better racer.

“Last year I really started training hard for the first time in my career,” said the 15-year Marine Corps veteran. “I hooked up with a local pro and really started to devote myself to the sport.”

BMX was born right here in Southern California in the early ‘70s by kids imitating motorcross riders while racing

their dirt bikes.

Horton, the director of Marine Corps Family Team Building, Marine Corps Community Services, got into the sport at an early age and has been hooked ever since.

“I’ve been racing since I was eight, but the training has never been this intense, and the competition has never been this good.”

Horton’s racing achievements speak for themselves - especially last year - first place in Texas, a second and a third in Tampa Bay, Fla., a second and a fourth in Denver, and a semi-finalist at the Grand Nationals in Tulsa, Okla.

Strong showings at other events

gained Horton national recognition and even a corporate sponsor.

Traveling to all these races can be quite heavy on the wallet, but Horton has had some help over

the last few years.

“It all started in ‘99,” explained Horton. “Headquarters Marine Corps sent out a message saying they were interested

‘My career is starting to wind down so I’m starting to focus more on [my son’s] training and his development. That’s the main reason why I pursued the coaching license so aggressively’

Capt. Stanley Horton



Capt. Stanley Horton (right) practices his BMX racing gate starts with his son Maurice at Kearny Moto Park in San Diego. Photo by Jeff Landrum

in sponsoring ‘non-traditional sports,’ like BMX, snowboarding, and skateboarding,” said Horton. “So, I jumped all over the opportunity to race for the Marine Corps.”

The last few years have been the best of Horton’s career, and he says even at 36 years old, it is only going to get better.

“I just got my expert coaching license and I’m hoping to become a coach for team USA when the Olympics introduce BMX as a medal sport in ‘08,” said Horton.

Horton’s son, Maurice, a 14 year old who attends Serra High School, is also an avid racer who competes in events on a national level.

“He’s been racing since he was four,” explained Horton. “My career is starting to wind down so I’m starting to focus more on his training and his development. That’s the main reason why I pursued the coaching license so aggressively.”

Maurice and his dad can be found at Kearny Moto Park most weekends racing or fine tuning their skills.

“Quite a few Marines come out to the track on the weekends,” said Horton. “Even some Marines from Yuma and Camp Pendleton.”

Horton’s next BMX adventure will send him to Holland for the 2004 World Championships in July.



Capt. Stanley Horton races in the Masters Cruiser at the Union Cyclist International World Championships in Perth, Australia in July 2003. Photo by Jeff Landrum



First Marine Division leathernecks march across the 11 Area parade Field to honor their storied combat unit. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Matt Hevezi

Remembering veterans of the Corps' 'hard Corps'

Story by Lance Cpl. Macario P. Mora Jr.

MCB Camp Pendleton Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (February 5, 2004) — Fresh faces clad in green paraded past their grizzled grandfathers while the band trumpeted their shared legacy Jan. 29 as part of the 1st Marine Division's 63rd anniversary celebration.

Nearly 100 division veterans joined Marines from Camp Pendleton for the annual parade honoring the Marine Corps' oldest, largest and most-decorated division.

The parade was held for all who have ever shed their blood, sweat and tears while serving under the blue diamond - the lion's share of whom have passed on or are in their Golden Years.

Regardless of their era, their contribution to the country is vital, said Maj. Gen. James N. Mattis, division commanding general.

"The uniforms and weapons have changed slightly, but the purpose and mission remain the same," he said.

Mattis said it's because of Marines from the past that Marines today will be able to pass on this "great experiment" called the United States of America to future generations.

The parade kicked off like many before it. From the very first parade to this one, the values and high standards instilled in Marines remain roughly the same, said Thomas M. Vetter, president of the 1st Marine Division Association.

The national anthem rang out and the veterans sang along.

"The anthem's a bit more meaningful when you've sacrificed so much and seen others die just so your family can hear the sweet sound of that song's music," said Tom Rosa, a retired master gunnery sergeant residing in Vista, Calif.

The division's band kept veterans and Marines entertained as hundreds of sergeants-and-below filled the ranks,

demonstrating the division's ability to work with small-unit leaders.

Various battle streamers, harking back to the division's birth Feb. 1, 1941, on the battleship Texas, were then attached to the division's colors by Marines from different units throughout the division.

Veterans generally were happy to witness the parade; many said they were downright thrilled and their modern-day successors also relished the experience.

"It's a great feeling to be in this ceremony, especially being the commander of troops," said Sgt. Christopher A. Colson, a member of the 1st Tank Battalion at Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms. "I'm honored to be the son of a Marine who served in World War II and Vietnam."

"It's motivating to see the support and camaraderie between Marines, old and new," said Cpl. Jodie M. Cayton, an intelligence analyst with the division.

After the parade, Marines of today and yesteryear swapped sea stories and reminisced. At least one old-timer saw himself in the division's youth.

"Seeing all of these Marines brings back memories of myself when I was 17," said Richard Martinez, a retired staff sergeant living in Lancaster. "No matter what I feel like, I'm at home when I'm here."

Veterans say they've had their eye on their division not just during the parade.

"We were watching you every day on the news," said Vetter.

"We only took naps, but when we were awake, the television was on the news. We were with you all in spirit," he said.

The way battles are fought has changed down through the years, Vetter said. But the way they're won hasn't changed.

"When I look at all of you and remember how we were, it's no wonder we're so successful," Vetter said.

"We were young once," he added.

GOVs hit road with GPS

Story by Lance Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The next time you drive a government car or truck, it is possible someone will be watching you from outside the vehicle via satellite and the Internet.

To more efficiently manage its fleet of cars and trucks and ensure driver safety for Air Station customers, motor transport here has been installing a new Global Positioning System called Networkcar in government vehicles.

"Networkcar is a great solution for monitoring the performance, location and security of our fleet vehicles," said Samuel J. Seaman, fleet manager, Southwest Region Fleet Transport, G-4 Installations and Logistics. "The device also allows us to recover stolen or missing vehicles."

Since December 2003, G-4 has been installing the device in response to the need for monthly General Services Administration reports and so far it has been performing well, said Michael Jacobson, vehicle inspector, Garrison Mobile Equipment, G-4.

"All GSA vehicles require a monthly mileage report sent to GSA," said Jacobson. "In the past, it has been difficult sometimes to obtain this information and at times when it was obtained it was in error."

Also, there is the issue of vehicles sometimes being driven for days or

weeks when the check engine light is on. This is a violation of California and federal law, and could void the vehicle warranty or cause permanent damage to the vehicle."

By means of a sophisticated onboard computer that is connected to the vehicle, every minute detail of a vehicle's performance can be analyzed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, anywhere across the globe, said Jacobson.

"Since Networkcar taps directly into the vehicle's onboard diagnostics, the mileage, speed, location and full status of all vehicles are all automatic," explained Jacobson. "If the vehicle has a check engine light, we'll know and the unit using the vehicle will be contacted to bring it in for maintenance."

Plus if there is a chronic speeding problem by a unit or an individual driver, this problem can now be addressed, said Seaman.

"In such cases we can notify a vehicle's point of contact and inform them of a possible situation involving irresponsible driver activity if they have not already monitored it themselves," Seaman explained.

Jacobson said he has at least 80 GPS devices yet to install and also added that a new video camera system would be installed in some fleet vehicles in the very near future, which works with the GPS system.

'Seeing all of these Marines brings back memories of myself when I was 17. No matter what I feel like, I'm at home when I'm here.'
retired Staff Sgt. Richard Martinez



All in a day's work

An F/A-18D Hornet from Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 takes off from the flightline here Feb. 5. The squadron is currently flying Forward Air Controller Airborne and Tactical Air Activity missions during the Scorpion Fire Exercise. The 'Vikings' of VMFA(AW)-225 fly the two-seat version of the Hornet which is capable of missions in darkness utilizing night vision equipment displaying thermal imaging for navigation, target acquisition and weapon deployment. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Leicht*

Support group helps military parents

Story by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

People go through changes throughout their lives. From the trials and tribulations of school to the uncertainty of just starting out on their own as young adults; life can offer confusing choices.

Marines and Sailors here have help in what might be one of the most scary and uncertain areas of life – child-rearing.

The New Parent Support Group offers a free support system for families with children 5 years old and younger. According to Olivia Domich, NPSG administration assistant, the group is not only in place to help the family, but the children as well.

“Our goal is to prevent child abuse, and the best way we have to do that is through education,” she said. “This allows us to intervene before, rather than after.”

Now in its 10th year, the NPSG offers six different programs at no cost to military families: Baby Boot Camp, Play Morning, Family Footlocker, Parenting the Toddler, Mom’s Basic Training and Home Visitors. The programs are classes, groups or in-home support benefiting the child as well as the parents.

Baby Boot Camp is a one-day class that is the first step in preparing families to be self-assured and capable parents. Domich said that parents who already have children could benefit from the class. The class covers topics from infant development to social and emotional changes in the family, baby safety, diapering, bathing, soothing a crying infant and more. A registered nurse

teaches the class, so parents get the most current information about infant care and local resources for a solid foundation in infant care. Another program offered enables children to meet once a week on the Air Station to play with other children.

“Play morning meets once a week, every Tuesday here at the parks, on the Air Station,” she said. “The park location changes each week and is great for social interaction.”

The Parenting the Toddler class is a new feature to the NPSG, and is found only on Miramar. The five-hour class is held throughout two consecutive days and focuses on children ages 18 months to 3 years. Topics covered range from growth and development to discipline, temper tantrums, play activities, safety, toilet training, bedtime routines, eating habits and more. The class is offered quarterly and childcare reimbursement is available.

Domich said Mom’s Basic Training is for active duty mothers only, whereas Baby Boot Camp is more for active duty fathers and their spouses. Mom’s Basic Training is a three-part class that includes many topics surrounding the active duty mother, including maternity leave issues in the Marine Corps.

“I’d say our Home Visitor program is our biggest asset,” she said. “They can be there as often as needed. They can help with family resources during deployments.”

Home visitors work directly with families to enhance parenting skills or to provide support. They help families learn to cope with stress, isolation, deployment or family

See **SUPPORT**, page 11

MMSB presents fitness report guidelines

Story compiled by Staff Sgt Maria C. Brookman

MCAS Miramar Assistant Internal Chief

Editors note: The following story is based on a commentary written by Personnel Management Support Branch Sgt. Maj. Charles D. Castle. The complete feature can be viewed at www.mmsb.usmc.mil/sgtmaj.htm.

One of the most critical components in the promotion system for sergeants and above is the fitness report. As important as the document is, the most commonly made mistakes should be corrected before the report is ever submitted to Headquarters Marine Corps.

Personnel Management Support Branch Sgt. Maj. Charles D. Castle recently published an online commentary regarding fitness report submissions and the errors that often accompany them.

According to Castle, the most frequently neglected requirement he often hears of is the reporting senior not presenting a copy of the report to the Marine reported on.

“The RS’s signature ... is a promise of good faith to the MRO, the RS and Headquarters Marine Corps that the RS has provided a copy of the completed fitness report to the MRO. This particular action seems to be removed from the fitness report process a lot of the times,” writes Castle.

The only instances where Headquarters Marine Corps waives the requirement for presenting a fitness report to a member is by direction of the Commandant of the Marine Corps or for a change of reporting senior report submitted on a Marine who is in an unauthorized absence status.

Another common error on the fitness report is incorrect social security numbers, according to Castle.

“There is no Marine with the SSN 123456789, yet we still receive that (number) in the SSN block. Moreover ... we continue to receive reports with the same SSN for the MRO and the RS, the RS and the Reporting Officer, or the MRO, RS and RO.”

According to Marine Corps Order P1610.7E, “the (SSN) is the most critical administrative item of information entered on the form. An incorrect or missing SSN will preclude or delay the entry of the report into the Marine’s records.”

While the reasons for not giving MROs their fitness reports or SSNs incorrectly documented vary, no Marine is totally faultless when it comes to fitness reporting mistakes.

A Marine who has not received a fitness report and knows one was submitted or due, should follow up with his or her reporting senior.

Supervisors and MROs should screen SSNs of every member of the fitness reporting chain of command.

Without the proper requirements for fitness report submissions, MROs may experience inadvertent promotion delays. Ultimately, only one person is responsible for the path of a servicemember’s career, and that person is the servicemember.

Marines compete for varsity soccer team

Story by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Soccer fanatics looking for some competition are welcome to attend varsity soccer tryouts every Thursday evening at Mills Park here.

Head coach Lee E. Friedman said Marines of all skill levels are invited to tryout for the base team that participates in several leagues throughout the year. He said players are always needed because of the constant rotation of Marines deploying and transferring to other duty stations.

"I am never going to turn anybody away," said Friedman, flight surgeon, Marine Aerial Refueling and Transport Squadron 352. "I called for tryouts, but nobody is going to get cut.

Everybody is always invited. We are always looking for more talent."

Tryouts consist of warm-ups, practice drills and scrimmages between players. Friedman said tryouts would be only conducted once a week because of the Marine Corps Community Services six-on-six soccer league that is starting on base, which many of the players will be participating in with their units.

"The biggest thing is that they are getting touches on the ball so that when it comes to game time it is not their first time touching the ball," he said.

Friedman said there are always games to play throughout the year. In addition to competing in the annual Marine Corps Regionals, MCCS sponsored the team to allow them to participate in soccer leagues out in town.

The team currently participates in a league that plays every Sunday in the San

Diego County Soccer League, which runs through the end of March. The team will then start playing every Saturday in the Navy West Coast Regionals at the beginning of March.

"The league we play in on the weekend is very competitive and guys like that competitive aspect of it," Friedman commented.

They have also played in a couple of six-on-six leagues and soon will start playing in an indoor league at the Mission Valley YMCA, he added.

"With the weather in San Diego, we can play soccer all year round," said Friedman, a Rockville Center, N. Y., native. "When one league stops, we'll have the Navy league to go into and that will take us through the end of June. We'll then play in couple of small leagues during the summer."

Friedman, who once played for the team, has worked on building the team since he took over coaching after returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom last summer. He had coached the team during last year's Marine Corps Regionals when they lost to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Despite their loss, Friedman along with other teammates feel like they can be competitive as long as they have players coming out to support the team.

"We are more than a top ten team. We are always in the top five at least," said Albert Garcia, embarkation chief, Marine Aircraft Group 11. "If you like to play, come on out. Don't be afraid to come out if it says tryouts, come out and play. We like to have fun playing the sport."

For more information or if you are interested in joining the team, contact Lee Friedman at 577-9902.



Diego Diaz (left) and Ben Ganey battle for the ball during varsity soccer tryouts at Mills Park Feb. 5. Team tryouts are being conducted weekly for anyone interested in joining the team. *Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas*

Miramar pool reopens

Story by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

After three long, dry months, the 50-meter swimming pool here has finally reopened its doors to Air Station personnel.

According to Sgt. Stephen Crahan, Marine Corps Water Survival Training instructor, the three-month closure was to repair cracks in the bottom of the pool, and switch the pool's sanitary chemical.

"We switched from bromine to chlorine because chlorine is much easier to monitor, making the pool safer," said Crahan.

The same services offered before the closure will still be offered in the newly repaired, safer eight-lane, olympic-size pool that gradually degrades from 4 to 12 feet.

"We offer Marine Corps Water Survival Training, which is basically the Marine Corps swim qualification, American Heart Saver certifications, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation certifications, unit physical training and Marine Corps Community Services lap swim," said Crahan.

Crahan stated that during unit PT at the pool, which runs Monday and Tuesday from 5:30 a.m. until 7:30 a.m., and Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m., units are not only limited to MCWST, as they can come for recreational swimming organized by either

the unit or the pool staff.

For training activities, the pool offers all the necessary equipment needed for swim qualifications such as packs, Kevlars and rubber rifles.

Crahan also noted that MCCS has a variety of swimming courses available during the week.

"Lap swim runs from 5:30 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, and every weekday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.," he said. "During the summer, swimming lessons are also offered from MCCS, along with other swimming programs."

With the exception of these MCCS swimming programs, unit PT and remedial swim training, Crahan noted that all unit training activities and qualifications need to be scheduled through the pool's parent command, the Training Area Management Office.

Although most of the swimming programs do not start until the summer, swimming during other seasons can still be enjoyable, because the pool is usually kept at 80 degrees, according to Crahan.

The pool is open to all servicemembers and their families, and one guest can accompany any military member.

For more information on the swimming pool, call the pool at 577-7918, or stop by building 2395.

Chapel weekly schedule of events

Holy Family Catholic Community

- ◆ Mass: 11 a.m. Sunday, 11:30 a.m. weekdays.
- ◆ Rosary: 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- ◆ Confession: 10:15 a.m. Sunday or for appointments call Father Berchmanz at 577-1333.
- ◆ Religious classes for children for first communion, confirmation: 9:30-10:45 a.m. Sunday.
- ◆ Youth gathering and planning following mass Sunday.
- ◆ Baptism: Normally the first Sunday of the month. Call the chaplain's office for details.
- ◆ Marriage: Call chaplain for details at least six months before wedding.
- ◆ Instruction in the Catholic faith (RCIA). Call chaplain's office for details.
- ◆ Scripture Class: 7 p.m. Wednesday in Chapel classroom.
- ◆ Choir Practice: 6 p.m. Wednesday in Main Chapel.

Liturgical Christian

- ◆ Sunday: Choir rehearsal at 9 a.m.
Liturgical worship at 9:30 a.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Bible study at 10:45 a.m.
- ◆ Tuesday: Morning prayer group (Room 4) at 6 a.m.
Contemporary Gospel Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday: Crafts and conversation at 9 a.m. Free childcare provided.
Women's bible study at 10:45 a.m.
Baptist service at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday: Liturgical choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Friday: Baptist bible study at 7 p.m.

Jewish

- ◆ First Friday of the month at MCRD San Diego at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Last Friday of the month in Edson Range Chapel Camp Pendleton at 7:30 p.m.

Romantic gifts

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is celebrating their 100th birthday this year and is giving away romantic gifts for Valentine's Day.

Sign up to have a budget done at the NMCRS today and register for a raffle ticket to win either a \$50 gift certificate for a romantic dinner, gift basket or a bouquet of flowers for Valentine's Day.

There are five slots starting at 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. for servicemembers to schedule an appointment to work out a budget with NMCRS.

Contact the NMCRS office at 577-1807 to schedule an appointment and bring your current leave and earning statement, bills, and valid identification to receive a raffle ticket.

The drawing will be held today at 3 p.m. and winners do not have to be present to win. Simply leave a reliable phone number for NMCRS to contact.

5K Fun Run

The Miramar Sports Complex is having a 5K 'Las Vegas' Fun Run Thursday.

Runners and walkers will pick up a poker hand during the three-mile course and the best poker hand wins prizes.

Miramar Station Theater closed for renovations

On Jan. 12 the Miramar Station Auditorium/Movie Theater was closed for renovations for a minimum of 90 days. During this time, the theater is closed for all training and movie program opportunities.

Renovations include new carpeting, tile and seating, as well as installation of an air conditioning and heating system, a fire safety system and a new roof.

Walkers begin at 11:15 a.m. and runners start at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, call Semper Fit Fitness at 577-4129.

Youth soccer

The Miramar Youth and Teen Center is holding registration for "Mini Mee Soccer" until Mar. 15.

Boys and girls who are at least three years of age can sign up for co-ed teams at the Youth and Teen Center.

Registration fee is \$25 and includes a T-shirt, trophy and individual and team photos.

Ski trip soon

There is never a dull moment with the Single Marine Program and the Great Escape! Take a look at what the Enlisted Recreation Center and Single Marine Program have to offer your Marines: a ski and snowboarding trip.

Participants will depart Feb. 21 at 5 a.m. and return at 8 p.m. The cost is \$45 for the lift ticket and space is limited. Money for food will be necessary and equipment rentals are available at the Outdoor Adventure Center.

For more information call the Great Escape at 577-6171.

Care packages to IMEF

The San Diego USO will be participating in "Operation USO Care Package," which will provide USO care packages to Marines and Sailors of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force who will be re-deploying to Iraq.

The San Diego USO is requesting the assistance of available volunteers to help hand out the USO care packages from Feb. 23 to Mar. 31. Volunteers will need to be available for day and evening shifts as well as weekday and weekend shifts. Nearly 20,000 Marines and Sailors will be leaving.

Because of heightened security, individuals can no longer send letters and packages to "Any Service Member." Operation USO Care Package is approved by the Department of Defense, and provides a safe, easy way for the San Diego USO and volunteers to show their prayers and thoughts are with our servicemembers as they deploy to Iraq. The USO Care Package contains an assortment of items specifically requested by the military, such as prepaid international calling cards, disposable cameras, toiletries and sunscreen.

For more information visit the USO online at www.uso-sandiego.org.



TOAST,
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a tumultuous, patriotic era of America.

On July 4, 1819, The National Intelligencer of Washington, D.C., wrote, “a large party of gentlemen assembled to celebrate the glorious festival of the anniversary of American independence ... Accompanied with songs and music from the Marine Band, and announced by repeated discharges of artillery, many toasts were drunk.”

Though the practice of expending rounds is no longer continued, the drinks still flow and the solidarity among brothers remains. The Marines who partook in this occasion honored this event as the embodiment of camaraderie and esprit de corps.

“This was beautiful,” said Staff Sgt. Darrell R. Brathwaite, maintenance administration clerk, VMFA(AW)-225. “Having all staff NCOs get together as one, getting away from work to fellowship. We should have this (more often).”

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separation issues and the everyday demands of parenthood. Home visitors are Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists or Registered Nurses who have extensive knowledge of the issues

confronting military families and can help. Families with a child younger than 6 are eligible for the Home Visitor program – even those with multiple children.

“All of our programs are no cost to the families, voluntary and confidential,” said Domich.

**Miramar
recycles**
For more information,
call Station Recycling at
577-6366.

Wingspan

Wingspan airs on Channel 44 Mondays and Wednesdays at 11 a.m. Wingspan is a local command access program that informs the Marines and Sailors aboard MCAS Miramar about what is going on around the Corps.



Predeployment check-up

Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Peters, diesel engine mechanic, Marine Wing Command Squadron 38, repairs a leaking steering gear box on a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle on the flightline here Feb. 5. Peters, a 22-year-old from Nova Scotia, Canada, is part of a group of Marines and U.S. Air Force personnel preparing vehicles and equipment from MWCS-38 being transported to Iraq on an Air Force C-17. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Leicht*